

Workers' Voice



National trade union leaders from all over Europe gathered in Brussels for an unprecedented summit ahead of the European Council on 20 March to call for an end to austerity and for a new path for Europe with a massive investment programme for growth and jobs.



YOUTH PRESS BARROSO
A delegation of young trade unionists met European Commission President José Manuel Barroso in late March to put the case for a change in austerity policies. "Austerity will not create jobs was our message," said Patrick Itschert, Deputy General Secretary of the ETUC. "The EU has to give young people some hope. The EU has to do more to ensure investment to boost demand, support education, improve infrastructure, drive R&D and create quality jobs."



TROIKA SLAMMED
European trade unionists endorse the European Parliament's highly critical report on the negative impact of Troika – European Commission, ECB and IMF – operations in Cyprus, Greece, Ireland and Portugal. The ETUC doubts the legality, and questions the democratic legitimacy, of the Troika imposing its policies which have brought austerity, cuts, and the undermining of workers' and collective bargaining rights.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
"While EU leaders congratulate themselves that the Euro crisis is over, I say that the crisis of unemployment and poverty has yet to be tackled. New policies are needed to get Europe back to work!"



Bernadette Ségol,
General Secretary of the ETUC



TRADE
Trade unionists support free trade, including a trade agreement between the EU and US – but not one that gives multinationals the right to challenge Government policies through an Investor State Dispute Settlement mechanism, or that undermines European labour and safety standards such as REACH which protects consumers and workers from harmful chemicals.

EU 'REFIT' deregulation programme: An attack on health, safety and working conditions
Austerity triggers emigration: 446,000 left Spain in 2012

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10 APRIL 2014

JOBS
With employment at 68%, EU won't meet 75% target by 2020

LOST GENERATION
7.5 million young Europeans neither employed nor in education nor training

Workers urge EU to invest in growth and quality jobs

- 50,000 march for 'New Path'
- ETUC calls for end to austerity

Europe's workers are calling for the European Parliament and European Commission to adopt an ambitious investment programme to generate economic growth and create new jobs.

With 26 million unemployed, real wages down today in 18 out of 28 member states compared to five years ago, and growing poverty and inequality, the European trade union movement says it is time for a change of policy.

"Austerity is not working" the General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), Bernadette Ségol, told the Presidents of the European Commission and European Council at the Tripartite Social Summit on March 20.

"Today's policies of cuts and deregulation are failing Europe's citizens," Ségol told Barroso and Van Rompuy. "The ETUC proposes an investment target of 2% of GDP annually over ten years. Such investments would help build a strong industrial base, good public services and innovative



50,000 trade unionists from over 21 countries marched in Brussels against austerity and for a new path for Europe

research and educational facilities." The cost of such investment – €250 billion per year – could be funded by recouping just a quarter of the €1,000 billion lost every year in tax evasion and fraud, and is consider-

ably less than the sums spent on saving the banks.

Over 50,000 trade unionists from over 20 countries gathered in Brussels on April 4 to demand an end to austerity and for a massive

programme of investment. Trade unionists point to the higher growth and job creation in the USA, attributing it at least in part to the economic stimulus package of the Obama administration.

THE CRISIS IN NUMBERS



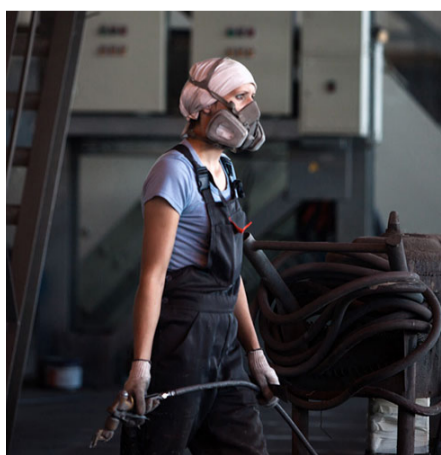
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INDUSTRY
EU industrial policy lacks the instruments to achieve a European industrial renaissance.



GIVE EU HOPE
The soon-to-be President of the German trade union confederation DGB, Reiner Hoffman, shows his support for new policies for growth and jobs.



ENERGY
EU energy policy could create growth and jobs, but after 2020 the European Commission proposes no energy efficiency target, and a renewables target lacking ambition.

CONFEDERATION SYNDICAT EUROPEEN TRADE UNION

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Euro Demonstration 04 04 2014



Workers march for investment in jobs and growth



Veronica Nilsson,
ETUC Confederal Secretary



ETUC President Ignacio Toxo



Portuguese trade unionists came to Brussels to demand new EU policies to tackle unemployment and poverty



Yannis Panagopoulos,
President of the Greek trade union confederation, with Bernadette Ségol of the ETUC



Polish workers demonstrating in Brussels against austerity